

**Mount Vernon Master Plan**  
**Open Space Committee Meeting**  
7-10-12

**Attendees:**

Anthony Cataldo, Department of Planning  
Kate Brower, Department of Recreation and Parks  
Andy Smith  
Oscar Gonzalez  
John Molino  
Lance Decker  
Charlie Duff  
Chelsea Arkin  
Steve Shen  
Jason Curtis  
Barbara Jean Gilbert

**Meeting Minutes:**

**1. Topics discussed at meeting**

- a. Dog Park meeting update
- b. Innovative Public Spaces/Corridors
- c. Gateways
- d. Programming
- e. Broader connections to surrounding open spaces
- f. Open Space ratio for population

**2. Dog Park Update**

- a. Things are moving forward with Community participation and the next scheduled meeting is Monday, July 16.

**3. Innovative Public Spaces/ Corridors**

- a. Open Space Corridors
  - i. Green/enhanced pedestrian connection corridors that begin to link areas of interest
    - 1. Center/Mt. Vernon monument to the dog park
    - 2. Monument to St. Paul Place gardens
    - 3. Connection to State Center
  - ii. Streetscape guidelines that are being looked at under Transportation committee can play a key role in this
    - 1. Open space committee to work out which streets could be most influential as these connections and appropriate guidelines to implement through streetscape.

2. Develop a 'Green Corridor' with places to walk and pause along the way – the path that connects the parks and creates small, intimate spaces.
3. Guilford Ave – more fun, urban, edgy treatment – not necessarily green
  - a. Include more cars and more design related interventions?
  - b. Include a green median?
4. Can we expand tree plantings at bus stops along Calvert?
5. Need a liaison from Open Space to the Streetscape Guidelines review group under DOT (perhaps Charlie Duff?) to ensure overlap
- iii. Stronger Connections to Johnston Square and St. Mary's Park
- iv. Possibility to install bump-outs along key paths?
- b. Create an alleyway experience – where can you capitalize on unique alleys and beautify them?
  - i. Branch Lane Alley
  - ii. Morton St.
  - iii. Tyson St.

#### **4. Gateways**

- a. Begin connecting residents to the broader area
- b. Investigate creating/expressing major gateways into the neighborhood.
  - i. Chase St. from I-83 (Urban/Art experience)
  - ii. Chase St. Bridge experience
  - iii. Monument St. at Howard St.
  - iv. Read St. at Howard St. – create Read as a Key connection to the Commercial Corridor
  - v. Mount Royal at Cathedral – PO Maintenance Facility

#### **5. Programming**

- a. Ideas to improve existing public spaces
  - i. Lyric grounds improvements?
  - ii. Waxter Site improvements?
  - iii. Connect to Symphony Hall and Light Rail – Round-about?
    1. Create a place with pedestrian experience and development
  - iv. Opportunities to create additional open spaces?
    1. Preston St. (btwn Charles and St. Paul)?
    2. DOT land under I-83?
    3. Exit ramp onto St. Paul/Mt. Royal

#### **6. Broader Connections to surrounding open spaces**

- a. Investigate opportunities in surrounding areas to connect to underutilized existing space for larger programming needs – more next meeting.

7. **Open space ratio for population**

- a. Discussion was had to see if there was a way to investigate a universal standard calculation for open space/resident of other successful cities
  - i. MVBA board members have alluded to these ratios- it would be great if you could supply them for discussion

8. **Next Steps**

- a. Next meeting – TBD in August
- b. Agenda items
  - i. Continue conversation regarding Connection Corridors, Gateways, and Alley Walks using information/examples the committee brings and precedents.
  - ii. Discuss improvements that could be made to Waxter Center grounds to create a place and add to the open space network.
  - iii. Identify key open spaces outside of Mount Vernon where we can begin building connections to.
  - iv. Begin assigning members to develop draft language for Master Plan as it relates to Open Space.
- c. **Committee Follow-up!**
  - i. Members are asked to find examples of gateways, bridges, streets/pedestrian connections/ alley beautification projects that they find exciting and fitting for Mount Vernon for discussion – **BRING THEM (AND YOUR OWN IDEAS) TO THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING!**